The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Do well and right, and let the world sink.—Herbert.

WHOLE NO. 1064. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1931 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 21, NO. 25.

1931 A. F. of L. Convention Called by Executive Council

Washington, Aug. 29.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor notifies affiliated unions that the annual convention of the Federation will be held in the convention hall, Vancouver Hotel, Vancouver, Canada, beginning at 10 o'clock, October 5, 1931, and continuing in session until the business of the convention is completed.

"The fifty-first convention of labor, convened at a period of widespread unemployment and suffering from curtailed income," declares the Council. "As this convention will have to consider serious problems and formulate important policies, it is essential that all organizations be fully represented at the convention.

"At no time in economic history has the close integration of economic interests of all groups been so irrefutably demonstrated as during this world-wide depression.

"Labor has an essential contribution to make to securing for wage-earners their proper share in economic progress so that prosperity shall be sustained. The coming convention will outline policies to that end and will need the experience and cooperation of wage earners from all industry.

"The affiliation of the American Federation of Labor and the members of its Executive Council appeal to all National and International Unions, State Federations of Labor, City Central Bodies and local organizations to make special efforts to send delegates to this fifty-first annual convention."

The Executive Council gives the following basis for representation in the convention:

National and International Unions—Unions with less than 4,000 members, one delegate; 4,000 or more, two delegates; 8,000 or more, three delegates; 16,000 or more, four edlegates; 32,000 or more, five delegates; 64,000 or more, six delegates; 128,000 or more, seven delegates; 256,000 or more, eight delegates. State Federations of Labor—One delegate.

City Central Bodies—One delegate.

Local trade unions not having a national or international union—One delegate.

Federal Labor Unions—One delegate. Only bona fide wage earners who are not members of or eligible to membership in other trade unions, are eligible as delegates from Federal Labor Unions.

Only organizations which have obtained a charter from the American Federation of Labor at least one month prior to the convention are entitled to representation.

No person will be recognized as a delegate who is not a member in good standing of the organization he is elected to represent.

Jewish Labor Day Message Demands Work and Wages for Unemployed

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 29.—"We serve notice in the name of the most precious spiritual possession of man, the sanctity of the human soul, that religion has naught but bitter condemnation for any economic order that, in our present one, again and again places concern for property above concern for human life and leaves millions of lives as wreckage in the mad scramble for material wealth," declares the Commission on Social Justice of the Central Conference of American Rabbis in a Labor Day message made public by Rabbi Edward L. Israel, chairman of the Commission.

"We face a situation now in which babes must go for a crust of bread while millions of bushels of grain rot in the granaries and the fields teem with an overabundance of produce," continues the message. "Children go barefoot and naked because, as we are told, their hardboring fathers have made so many shoes, have produced so much clothing, that the only answer of sound economics was to stop their means of livelihood.

"Surely the degradation of charity, bread lines, and soup kitchens is not a Godly institution. The challenge to the system of responsibility for a universe where millions who want work are forced to starve in the midst of teeming overabundance.

"To meet the unemployment crisis the message urges five billion dollars for public improvements, including the elimination of grade crossings, and reforestation.

"These millions of unemployed workers have a right to jobs," declares the message. "It is essential, more in record the material lives of men, women and children, but their spiritual integrity, unity and respect as human beings. No economic order can ethically rob men of their inalienable self-respect and make them objects of charity. If the private economy of our present economic order are paralyzed, our Government owes it to its millions to act at once. A few years ago we, as a Government, spent billions of dollars to destroy the lives of those whom we called our enemies. Do we hesitate today to act as concretely in order to preserve the lives of our own people?"

Nothing in the shorter work week as an essential measure to provide jobs for the unemployed, the message says: "Our machines are turning out products faster than we can consume them. Only a great reason for the new has so much unemployment. We must drastically reduce hours, which is regulate production, to shorten the hours of labor so that all may have the opportunity to be gainfully employed. The shorter working day and the shorter working week are both economic and moral necessities in our mechanized age. Machinery is made for man, not man for machinery."

The message also denounces the inequitable distribution of wealth, and declares that "along with the adjustment of the problem of production must be an adjustment of the distribution of the profits of industry. We have learned at a terrific price of suffering that whirling wheels piling up enormous profits for the few do not mean prosperity or happiness for society as a whole. And the real happiness of society as a whole that is the concern of any righteous program of economic reform.

"Our present economic order is to be judged and its permanence to be assured not to the degree that it can produce wealth and power, but to the degree that it can provide the essentials of decent subsistence to the great mass of toiling humanity."

"There is nothing new in the present order," the message concludes, "and unless it can plead more in record with the fundamental principles of ethical conduct, it forecasts for it the same inevitable and inexorable doom as did the great prophets of our people in their day and age to a society morally blind and callous. May we have the wisdom, the boldness, the God-inspired spirituality to bring our stricken world to the healing touch of a Godly justice and righteousness."

State Work for Jobless at Guaranteed Wage Demanded by N. Y. Labor Federation

Syracuse, N. Y., Aug. 29.—A State-guaranteed wage of $5 a day for at least three days a week, to be made available for public employes, and an amendment to the labor laws to include highway work under the prevailing wage rate provisions, were the outstanding demands of the annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor to relieve the unemployment situation. The recommendations were transmitted to the special session of the State Legislature at Albany.

"The New York State Federation of Labor is in regard to a guaranteed wage income involves the pledging by the State of New York to give every adult citizen at least three days of work each week at $5 a day," said John Sullivan, president of the Federation. "The $15 per week, which is now insufficient for a good living, will at least keep people from starving and freezing.

"It is our contention that the State, probably with the aid of the counties, could provide employment for those who find enough work to be done to warrant the employment of men and women three days a week.

"But even if there is an absolute shortage of work to be done in any specific locality, we feel that men and women out of work through no fault of their own should receive an income sufficient to obtain for them and their families the bare necessities of life."

HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Labor Day, 1931, is the thirty-eighth annual celebration of Labor Day as a legal national holiday and the fiftieth anniversary of the first local Labor Day celebration.

The history of Labor Day as a legal holiday is evidence of the methods and progress of labor.

Labor Day was not given to Labor as a present from kindly disposed employers, social welfare workers, or legislators. Its recognition was won by the toilers of Labor Itself.

The united efforts of the workers themselves established Labor Day as a national holiday years before any State legislature or the Congress of the United Stats enacted the custom into law.

Nevertheless, the history of Labor Day statute laws themselves is important because it illustrates the increasing influence of labor's economic organizations over the actions of government bodies.

P. J. McGuire, the founder of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and for many years a member of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, originated the Labor Day idea.

At a meeting of the New York City Central Labor Union held on May 8, 1882, McGuire stressed the propriety of setting aside one day in the year as a general holiday for the working people. He suggested the first Monday in September.

The Central Labor Union adopted the idea and organized a Labor Day parade and festival on the first Monday in September.

The 1884 convention of the American Federation of Labor endorsed the proposal for a national Labor Day holiday by unanimously adopting the following resolution introduced by J. J. Jarrett, of Birmingham, Ala., and Peter J. McGuire, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners:

"Resolved, That the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality."

Organized labor carried on its demand for Labor Day so effectively that soon many municipal councils and State legislatures made it a legal holiday.

Oregon was the first State to make Labor Day a legal holiday. The Oregon Labor Day law was signed by the governor on February 21, 1887. During 1887 the legislatures of Colorado, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey passed Labor Day a State holiday. In 1889, Connecticut, Nebraska and Pennsylvania enacted Labor Day laws; in 1890, Iowa and Ohio; in 1891, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Montana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Tennessee and Washington; in 1892, Alabama, Louisiana, Utah and Virginia; in 1893, California, Florida, Maryland, Texas, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin.

In the meantime the officials of the American Federation of Labor endeavored to have the Congress of the United States make Labor Day a national holiday.

Shortly after the Fifty-third Congress convened in 1893, Senator Pettigrew, of Kyle of South Dakota, Representative Amos J. Cummings of New York, and Representative Hooker, of Mississippi, introduced bills in their respective houses to make Labor Day a legal holiday.

The Cummings bill was reported favorably by the House Committee on Labor, of which Lawrence E. McGann of Illinois was chairman. The Committee did not report the De Forest bill.

The Kyle bill was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, of which Senator Kyle was chairman. Following is the text of the Kyle bill:

"A BILL MAKING LABOR DAY A LEGAL HOLIDAY

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first Monday in September in each year, being day celebrated and known as labor's holiday, is hereby made a legal public holiday, in the same manner as Christmas, the 1st day of January, the 22d day of February, the 30th day of May, and the 4th day of July are now by law public holidays."

The Senate passed the Kyle bill on June 24, 1894, the House passed it on June 26, in place of the Cummings bill, and President Cleveland signed it on June 28.

In his annual report to the 1894 convention of the American Federation of Labor, Samuel Gompers, president of the Federation, announced Labor's victory with the following brief statement:

"National Labor Day.—It affords me pleasure to be able to report that the demand made by the American Federation of Labor for making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday passed Congress and was made a law on June 28, 1894."

All hail to Labor Day, 1931!

McGrady Scores Wages Stand of Bankers; Wage Payments Declined, Dividends Increased

Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 29.—American bankers are doing more to disrupt the Government than all the Communists in America, Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, told the unemployment conference of the Mississippi Valley States called by Governor Murray of Oklahoma.

"There is a movement on foot by the bankers to deflate still lower American standards of living," declared McGrady, anxious to expand their activities have gone to the banks for funds, and have been told they could not have the money because the wages they paid were too high.

"The position taken by the bankers is unthinkable and a tragedy for the great danger to our American institutions. The policy is going to increase our economic distress.

"Our present economic system is wrong and must be changed, for mass production has brought mass poverty to the people of the land," McGrady declared. "There must be a change before it is too late to stem the tide of discontent and disorder. The result of our American workers waiting indefinitely for some form of relief in a nation of plenty. They will not continue to sit quietly by in distress."

McGrady attended the conference as the representative of William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

"Wage payments in industries for the first half of 1930 were below those of 1929 by $707,000,000 while dividend payments increased by $350,000,000. Wage earners' incomes were cut 12 per cent while stockholders' dividends increased 28 per cent.

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Green Reports 5,100,000 Jobless; Work Increasing in Some Industries

Washington, Aug. 29.—There are around 5,100,000 workers out of jobs, with large increases of unemployment in some industries and seasonal decreases in others, according to the July monthly statement on unemployment issued by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

"Summer unemployment is usually checked in August," the report says. "In our four years' record of unemployment in trade unions, we have found the fall season failed to bring at least a slight improvement in only one year, one exception was last year when business and industry were rapidly plunging into deeper depression.

"August this year is no exception to the rule. Employment in manufacturing improved very slightly. Our weighted figure shows 3.4 per cent of the membership out of work in the first part of August, compared with 18.8 per cent unemployed in July and 19.6 per cent. Industrial unemployment has risen steadily from May to July; in August the rise has been checked. The figures are as follows (weighted): May 17.1 per cent unemployed, June 18.2, July 18.8, August 18.4. September usually brings further industry improvement with the fall busy season.

"On the basis of these figures estimate that 5,100,000 were out of work in the first part of August, industrial employment gained, and about 120,000 found work; but about 40,000 were laid off on farms with the end of the July harvesting season. This makes a total gain since July of about 80,000 jobs.

"The striking gain of the month was in the clothing and textile industries, where the fall season has begun. Nearly 20 per cent of those unemployed in July found work in August. Smaller gains in the manufacturing and shipping industries also provided jobs for many.

"In some trades, on the other hand, unemployment is still on the increase. In printing, unemployment has been increasing since February, except for one month, and has now reached the unprecedented figure of 14 per cent out of work. Over three hundred thousand number out in August, 1929. In building, unemployment has increased since June, and is now almost at the February level, with 41 per cent out of work. This also is unprecedented for summer months. In theaters the midsummer dull season has thrown many out temporarily.

"As a whole, the report shows that although the fall season is bringing temporary relief in some industries, in others the situation is far from improving. There has been no increase in part time work and 19 per cent of the membership are still on part time. The report for cities shows unemployment increasing in 14 and improving in only nine; two show no change."

HOOVER NAMES JOBLESS RELIEF ORGANIZATION

Washington, Aug. 29. — President Hoover has requested sixty-one persons, all of them nationally known, to constitute the President's committee to assist Walter S. Gifford, president of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company, appointed by the President to direct all of the Federal unemployment relief activities.

Labor is represented by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; Matthew Woll, third vice president of the Federation, and A. Johnston, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Engineers.

Mr. Gifford announced that the present and most urgent work of the Committee is to organize every community and local charity funds to keep the unemployed from suffering next winter. Later the problem of providing work will be considered.

COUZENS OFFERS MILLION FOR JOBLESS RELIEF

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 29.—Senator James Couzens contributed $1,000,000 to the Detroit Jobless relief fund provided Mayor Murphy succeeded in raising $10,000,000 more from private sources.

The Detroit City Council has appropriated $7,500,000 for unemployment relief from November 1, 1931, to March 1, Mayor Murphy insisted that this amount, $10,000,000 too small. Therefore Couzens took the other $2,500,000 on himself, private fund off with his $1,000,000.

Senator Dynamite has also favored a special session of Congress to enact laws making appropriations to assist the States in raising funds for the relieving the unemployment crisis.

"The Congress has apparently determined not to call an extra session of Congress," Couzens said, "and a regular session does not convene until December. Consequently no aid can be given by it until it is too late to help with the lowest relief. Therefore other ways and means must be found to relieve it.

"It is more important to me that the unemployed be properly cared for this winter, than that I pay taxes. I have adopted, so I am willing to adapt myself to these conditions and aid in every way possible."

UNION WORKERS LEND WAGES TO EMPLOYER

Denver, Colo., Aug. 29.—The union employes of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company offered to loan their company half of their wages for the current three months, Miss Josephine Roche, president of the company, accepted the loan.

The company is a union concern operating under an agreement with the United Mine Workers of America. Non-union coal companies in Colorado recently announced wage cuts of 20 per cent. The Rocky Mountain Fuel Company has made no wage reductions. The loan from its employes will be paid to tide the company over the crisis caused by competition with the low-wage output of non-union competitors.

838 MINERS KILLED

Washington, Aug. 29—Reports received by the Bureau of Mines from State mine inspectors covering fatal accidents in coal mines for the first seven months of 1931 show that 838 miners were killed During July 106 lost their lives, a decrease of 18 over the month of June. In the State of Pennsylvania, 18 miners were killed

Prison-Made Shoes Cost Army $15,297 More Than Shoes Made by Free Labor

Washington, Aug. 29.—Convict-made shoes cost the War Department 28 cents more than shoes made by free labor. This is revealed in a dispute between the War Department and the Department of Justice over the price of shoes for the army.

The law prescribes that a certain portion of the shoes required for soldiers in the United States shall be made in Federal prisons which come under the control of the Department of Justice.

Secretary of War Hurley complained to the Controller General that the Justice Department was charging the War Department $2.14 a pair for 53,676 pairs of shoes, while a Lewis shoe store was charging only $2.44 for the same number. The Justice Department contended that despite the labor costs the Federal prisons could not make the shoes any cheaper.

In the face of President Hoover's instructions for rigid economy, the War Department will have to take the prison shoes at a cost of $15,297 more than it costs the Missouri concern for the same number.

LABOR DAY SPEECHES WILL BE BROADCAST

Washington, Aug. 29.—The Labor Day speeches of President Green and Secretary Morrison will be broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company.

Mr. Green speaks at Cincinnati, Ohio, at 2:30 p. m. Central standard time, which is 3:30 Eastern standard time and 12:30 Eastern daylight saving time. Mr. Morrison speaks at Chicago, Ill., at 1 p. m. daylight saving time.

PATERSON SILK STRIKE WIN 52 WAGE AGREEMENTS

Paterson, N. J., Aug. 29.—There are 6,763 silk workers on strike under the banner of the Associated Silk Workers, and the United Textile Workers, declares the first report issued by the Textile Federation, A. F. of L. publicity. The report states that 1,586 workers belonging to the conservative union have returned to work under union agreements in the last week.

Police actively supported the employers by attempting to deprive the strikers of their right to picket, distributing bills and similar strike activities.

Judge F. W. Freeman in the criminal district court acquitted 14 workers on charges of "loitering" at the Henry Doherty Silk Mill. Charges were also dismissed in the police court against fourteen other strikers for distributing handbills.

HOSIERY WORKERS CALL STRIKE IN READING, PA.

Reading, Pa., Aug. 29.—Officials of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers issued a general strike call to the employes of the 27 hosiery mills in this vicinity. Strike leaders demand a 33 1-3 per cent increase in wages and recognition of the union.

About 10,000 hosiery workers are employed here. The Berkshire Mills alone employ normally some 5,000 persons.

TORONTO HAS HAGGERTY FOR LABOR DAY SPEAKER

Toronto, Can., Aug. 29.—John B. Haggerty, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, will be the Labor Day address here under the auspices of the District Labor Council.

NEW JERSEY RAILROAD ADOPTS FIVE-DAY WEEK

Elizabeth, N. J., Aug. 29.—Around 1,200 of the regular force of 2,300 of the Elizabethport shop employes of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, who were laid off several months ago will be put back to work on a five-day week basis after Labor Day, E. W. Brown, general manager of the railroad, announced. This leaves 1,200 shop employes permanently out of work.

Brown explains that in making up the permanent force to be employed on the five-day week he has selected the older and more experienced men.

DAY'S PAY AND LAY-OFFS FOR OUT-OF-WORK RELIEF

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 29.—Mayor Jackson has issued a request-order to all officials and employes to contribute one day's pay a month for the creation of an unemployment relief fund. Should wage earners object, Jackson said, he will maintained a united front against the proposal. The mayor says the international union in its reorganization drive has signed up the unanimous field requires all its usual income to cop with the situation.

READING RY. ADOPTS 4-DAY AND 3-DAY WEEK

Ashland, Pa., Aug. 29.—Officials of the Reading Railway in the Shamokin division, serving a wide anthracite producing area, have adopted a three-working days for section men, carpenters, bridgemen, signal department and trainers from five to four days per week. Railroad officials also reduced the number of days work per week for 1,000 men from four days to three. This puts the shopmen on half time.

The officials then turned to trainmen and by the arrangement of train schedules dismissed two complete train crews.

Green Charges Industrial Leaders Refuse Aid In Jobless Crisis, Urges Hoover to Call Industrial Conference, Demands 5-Day Week and Job Security

Boston, Aug. 29.—Industrial leaders are doing very little to meet the unemployment crisis. In the meantime the institutions of the country are being subjected to the most severe test in history. Action instead of talk is necessary to prevent the collapse of our social structure.

This was the keynote of the address by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, at the opening session of the biennial convention of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America.

President Green condemned the owners and managers of industry for their failure to relieve the jobless situation and charged them with having repeatedly ignored the American Federation of Labor's unemployment relief program and to guarantee every person employment.

He urged the five-day week and a shorter work day as the only method left secure and reiterated his demand that President Hoover convene a national unemployment conference of representatives of industry and labor.

"Labor wants displaced workers to be given educational and vocational training so as to fit themselves for other spheres of activity," President Green declared.

"We want old-age pensions and welcome an opportunity to meet face to face with the captains of industry on our program.

"We are willing to let the great part of the American people determine between their commission programs and our own, but we repeat, the whole blame for this intolerable situation squarely where it belongs.

"To meet the present situation, Labor urges a conference between the representatives of industry and Labor to arrange a constructive policy. Labor also proposes as a remedy that the workers be secured in his job the same as a bondholder is secured in his interest payments.

"We must secure jobs as science has increased efficiency, protect these jobs by shorter working days and weeks, if necessary, and by more anything else the masses of the people.

"If possible we must make wages equal or superior to production so that the workers can consume what they produce for the country.

"Congress does not control jobs in private industry and can only create jobs in public service.

"Owners and managers of private industry employing 40,000,000 people alone control the jobs in industry.

"In all fairness they should at least establish the five-day week as a test, lower the hours of labor and maintain the standard of wages to the highest point possible, so that the purchasing power of the people would be made possible for them to consume what they produce.

"Some few individual employers have taken the initiative in reducing hours of work, but they are so few that their efforts have had little effect.

"What we need is collective action on the part of industry as a whole, but the only power outside the fight of the people to compel that is President Hoover.

"Science and machinery have increased the productivity of man more than 10 per cent during the past 12 years.

"In 1929 industry as a whole produced 42 per cent more goods than were produced in 1919 and with 546,000 fewer workers.

"Does science and machinery mean anything to the country except the displacement of workers?

"Is it logic to continue working long hours with such efficiency?"

919,000 JOBLESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg, Aug. 29.—The report of the State Unemployment Relief Committee to Governor Pinchot estimates that 919,000 persons, or one-fourth of the whole working population of Pennsylvania, "will also be unemployed."

The report declared that serious conditions due to unemployment exist in 39 counties; in these counties the committee found unusual unemployment and the likelihood of its continuance, abnormal part-time employment, reduction in family incomes through wage decreases, malnutrition and underfeeding, exhaustion of public and private relief funds, and overburdened organizations, increasing difficulty of public relief, failure to relieve the jobless and greater number of embarrassed school districts and unprecedented demand on hospitals for care.

The report said that 40 counties spent $500,000 more for relief in 1930 than in 1929 and declared that a much larger sum would be necessary to care for the needy this year.

"Relief needs are most serious in the coal fields, where industrial conditions are aggravated by unusual unemployment," the committee declared.

"Wage reductions approximating 15 per cent of all workers in manufacturing industries in 1930 and 1931 is able, it must insist that concern for increased production and greater consumption involve unless it be accompanied with concern for just distribution.

JOBLESS CONFERENCE URGES PUBLIC WORKS

Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 29.—The unemployment conference of the Mississippi Valley States, meeting here at the call of Governor Murray of Oklahoma, decided to study unemployment situation as a unit under a permanent organization to be set up by the conference.

Governors of each of the Valley States will be asked to boost public construction programs of States, counties and municipalities.

Governor Murray suggested that State and Federal employes return from 10 to 15 per cent of their salaries for the aid of the jobless.

States delegates were urged to organize and support activities of unemployment relief organizations in the affected States.

Clarence Douglas, special representative of the Federal Farm Board organization, said the government had already available $1,000,000,000 for public construction, river and harbor improvement and flood control and urged the conference to go on record as favoring the expenditure of this money as expeditiously as possible.

INSPIRE JOBLESS WITH CONFIDENCE, LEGGE SAYS

Grand Fork, N. D., Aug. 29.—"A feeling of confidence must be inspired in the people, and if it takes Farm Board wheat to do it, that can be used," said Alexander Legge, former Federal Farm Board chairman, commenting on a proposition to distribute wheat under control of the Farm Board to the needy.

Legge said he believed "selling things rather than giving them away," but he added that "if it becomes necessary, then we are going to be a lot of cads for help this winter. I think every man who is hungry should be given a sack of flour. There is no case on record of a man starving to death with a sack of flour in the house."

Legge did not refer to the possibility of inaugurating programs of work of the jobless by cutting the hours of work in the International Harvester Company plants to five days a week.

COAL MINERS OPPOSE REDUCED UNION DUES

Harleton, Pa., Aug. 29.—The boards of Districts Nos. 1, 7 and 9 of the United Mine Workers of America rejected a proposal advanced in the recent Scranton convention to reduce the old-age pension fund of dues paid to the international union would be reduced.

The proposal would end the international share of the monthly payment of $1.75 per member, instead of 50 cents. The men from Districts Nos. 7 and 9 maintained a united front against the proposal. They declared that the international union in its reorganization drive has signed up the unanimous field requires all its usual income to cop with the situation.

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Presbyterian Labor Day Message Declares Wages Are More Important Than Dividends

New York, Aug. 29.—"The present economic crisis and disaster is a direct, definite and inescapable challenge to American industry to prove that it is superior to any other industrial system known to man," declared the Labor Day message of Commissary of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions. The Labor Day message of the 10,000 churches of that denomination. "This superiority," Dr. McDowell continued, "must be by demonstration not by verbal proclamation; by work and wages, not by wishes and words."

Dr. McDowell emphatically declared that "keeping men at work at good wages is more important than keeping dividends going; that the transfer of political and economic control from the self-seeking few to the self-seeking many is not the way of social and industrial emancipation for America; that the responsibility for the people support the government, not the government the people."

Speaking of the church's responsibility toward the problem, Dr. McDowell said that it must be responsive to these human problems, involved and "insist that things are more important than material things, that industry exists for society, not society for industry; that social duty must be done even when it runs counter private right; that faith, not fear, is the only basis of a just, permanent and effective industrial order.

"The church must help create goodwill and sound wisdom, which will issue in an economic system that will secure to every man the opportunity of employment, a system that will keep open the door of opportunity for every man, woman and child in America, regardless of creed, color or condition."

Flaherty Demands 5-Day Week for Postal Service; Denounces Wage Reductions

Washington, Aug. 29.—"The time is opportune for the Government to set an example to private industry by placing the postal service on a five-day week basis," declares P. J. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, in discussing the five-day week recommendation which he will make in his report to the annual convention of the organization which meets in Los Angeles, Calif., on September 7.

"The productivity of postal workers has increased approximately 100 per cent in the last decade," he continued. "There are thousands of postal substitutes now working that one would be given employment by the shorter work week and that way opened for further employment for many others."

Flaherty criticized the Post Office Department's drive to have postal employees contribute liberally to unemployment relief organizations, declaring such a method "unsound and unscientific."

"Owners and managers of private industry employing 40,000,000 people alone control the jobs in industry.

"In all fairness they should at least establish the five-day week as a test, lower the hours of labor and maintain the standard of wages to the highest point possible, so that the purchasing power of the people would be made possible for them to consume what they produce.

"Some few individual employers have taken the initiative in reducing hours of work, but they are so few that their efforts have had little effect.

"What we need is collective action on the part of industry as a whole, but the only power outside the fight of the people to compel that is President Hoover.

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"Does science and machinery mean anything to the country except the displacement of workers?

"Is it logic to continue working long hours with such efficiency?"

Street Sweeping Test for Jobless Fixed By Baltimore Flaherty Welfare Association

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 29.—Willingness to sweep streets as a test of desire to work, and fitness for such work is being up by the Family Welfare Association as the test of the sincerity of jobless workers who are asking the privilege to work to keep themselves and their families from starvation.

"We give 50 cents work sweeping streets each night," said Miss Dorothy Kahn, executive secretary of the association. "They are all men with families in Baltimore not Boaters, and we put them in 3c cents an hour jobs. If they work three or four hours a night, they get 50 cents. Numbering a total of the men sweep streets two or three nights a week. We send them to the street cleaning superintendent, who gives them their equipment, puts them to work, and then gives us a report. If done, gives them a ticket showing how many hours they worked. We give this ticket to us and we pay them.

"Our arrangement with the Street Cleaning Department is of about 15 years' standing, but not until the present emergency have we been able to make much use of it. Now we have all the jobless we can find, and three sweepers we can take care of. Frequently as many as 75 report."

The association runs a force of approximately 400 street sweepers, who are paid 35 cents an hour, and 50 cents an hour. The Family Welfare Association rate of 35 cents an hour cuts the established city rate ten cents.

T. A. McCreash, Second Vice President, and Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, Dead

Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 29.—T. A. McCreash, second vice president of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, died suddenly while addressing a central body meeting here.

Mr. McCreash was 53 years of age and had held membership in the Amalgamated Meat Cutters' union for 30 years. He was first secretary organization and vice president and organizer during the past 14 years. The body was taken to Chicago and interred in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

During the general packing house strike in December, 1921, Mr. McCreash was stationed at Denver, Colo. The packing house workers were on strike for increased wages and against three-wage strike law. McCreash was cited before the court and told to keep the men at work. The Family Welfare Association rate of 35 cents an hour cuts the established city rate ten cents.

Pen Used by Cleveland to Sign National Labor Day Law Still Kept by A. F. of L.

When the bill making Labor Day a national holiday became a law in June, 1894, Amos Jay Cummings was a member of the House of Representatives from New York City. He had introduced the measure in the House for review, but it was supplanted by a bill which passed the Senate before the House measure reached the floor. When it was signed by President Cleveland, Representative Cummings wrote the following letter to Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor:

"Washington, D. C., June 29, 1894.

"Samuel Gompers, Esq., 14 Clinton Place, New York City.

"My dear Gompers.—Yesterday I took a bill making Labor Day a National Holiday, which has been passed by both houses of Congress, down to the President and he signed it. Thinking that you would like to have a memento of the passage of a law elevating labor, which will probably remain on the statute books as long as the Republic lasts, I send you the pen and holder which the President used in signing the bill.

"Yours sincerely,

"AMOS J. CUMMINGS."

President Gompers sent the following reply:

"New York, July 3, 1894.

"Hon. Amos J. Cummings, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Sir and Friend: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 29th ultimo, and that you took the Bill making Labor Day a national holiday, and the pen with which the signed it, and that you sent me the pen and holder with which the President used in signing the Bill.

"I also received the pen and holder, and have much pleasure in them is not only as a valuable souvenir in connection with the Bill, but it is also as a high compliment expressive of your attitude towards the great movement for the rights of labor. . .

"Very truly yours,

"SAMUEL GOMPERS, President, American Federation of Labor."

The pen and holder used by President Cleveland in signing the bill making Labor Day a national holiday is preserved in the archives of the American Federation of Labor as a lasting reminder of one of the most important achievements of the American labor movement.